

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An article of expanded PTFE exhibiting a fibril and node structure ~~containing~~ comprising two ~~or more~~ distinct pore size[[s]] distributions, one within another, wherein ~~one~~ a first pore size distribution comprises smaller pore sizes than ~~another~~ a second pore size distribution and the pores of the smaller pore size distribution ~~is found~~ are randomly distributed within the pores of the larger pore size distribution[[s]], for an application as vascular graft, cardio vascular patch, cardio vascular suture, or stent cover.
2. (original) An article as described in claim 1, wherein the smaller pore sizes are in the range of 2 to 15 microns and the pores of the larger pore size distribution are in the range of 20 to 50 microns.
3. (original) An article as described in claim 2, wherein the smaller pore sizes are in the range of 3 to 8 microns and the pores of the larger pore size distribution are in the range from 25 to 40 microns.
4. (previously presented) An article as described in claim 3, wherein the smaller sizes are in the range from 4 to 6 microns and the pores for the larger pore size distribution are in the range from 25 to 35 microns.
5. (previously presented) An article as described in claim 4, wherein the smaller pore sizes are around 5 microns and the pores for the larger pore size distribution are around 30 microns.
6. (previously presented) An article described in claim 1, that is configured into a tube.

7. (original) An article as described in claim 6, that is configured into a reinforced tube.

8. (previously presented) An article as described in claim 1, that is configured into a sheet.

9. (original) An article described in claim 8, that is configured into a reinforced sheet.

10. (currently amended) A method for producing a vascular graft, cardio vascular patch, cardio vascular suture, or stent cover from expanded PTFE, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a first PTFE resin that expands to exhibit a distribution of relatively small pores size distribution,

selecting a second PTFE resin that expands to exhibit a distribution of relatively large pores size distribution,

mixing the first and second resins and, if any, further resins, homogeneously and blending them with a lubricant, such that, after expanding, the pores of the smaller pore sized distribution are randomly distributed within the pores of the larger pore size distribution

forming the such obtained blend into a billet,

extruding the billet into a tube or sheet, and

expanding the extruded PTFE tube or sheet and heating it.

11. (original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the small pore size is in the range from 2 to 15 microns and the large pore size in the range from 20 to 50 microns.

12. (previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the small pore size is in the range from 3 to 8 microns and the large pore size is in the range from

25 to 40 microns.

13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the small pore size is in the range from 4 to 6 microns and the large pore size is in the range from 25 to 35 microns.

14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the small pore size is around 5 microns and the large pore size is around 30 microns.

15. (new) The method according to claim 10, wherein the pores of the larger pore size distribution are formed between larger nodes and longer fibrils interconnecting the larger nodes and wherein the pores of the smaller pore size distribution are formed between the larger nodes, smaller nodes and shorter fibrils interconnecting the smaller nodes with each other and/or with the larger nodes

16. (new) An article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pores of the larger pore size distribution are formed between larger nodes and longer fibrils interconnecting the larger nodes and wherein the pores of the smaller pore size distribution are formed between the larger nodes, smaller nodes and shorter fibrils interconnecting the smaller nodes with each other and/or the larger nodes.

17. (New) An article of porous expanded PTFE, comprising:
a first series of major nodes interconnected by first fibrils having a first length;
and
a second series of minor nodes interconnected to said first series of major nodes by second fibrils having a second length;
wherein said second length is shorter than said first length.

18. (New) The article of claim 17 wherein a minor node in combination with a length of two second fibrils has a length substantially equal to said first length.